



NEWS

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CHP WARNS OF MOTORCYCLE DANGERS

Inexperienced Riders Should Think Twice Before Jumping On Their Bikes

(SACRAMENTO) In previous generations, men going through mid-life crisis or just wanting to recapture their youth used to buy that muscle car they couldn't afford in high school or college. Today, many 40-something or 50-something men are opting instead to buy some muscle motorcycle. Today, the California Highway Patrol joined the Motorcycle Safety Foundation to urge them to think twice.

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness month in California. All new motorcycle riders, young and "mature" are urged to sign up for the California Motorcyclist Safety Program before beginning to ride. Current state law requires those 21 years of age and under to successfully complete the CMSP course in order to receive a motorcycle license endorsement. The CHP is urging anyone who hasn't ridden for several years or those who are learning to ride later in life, to also take the course.

"I can tell you as a former motorcycle officer who hasn't ridden in awhile, I'd take the course myself. Riding a motorcycle involves skills that need to be honed and brushed-up from time to time," said CHP Deputy Commissioner Joe Farrow.

Last year, nearly 50,000 students took the CMSP course at nearly 80 training sites throughout California. There were 641,905 registered motorcycles in California, a 38% increase since 1998. Fatal collisions rose at the same rate between 1998 to 2002, but during the past two years the number of fatal motorcycle collisions has decreased by 7%.

"You really need to learn the proper operation of a motorcycle and safety precautions you should take before you ride off on your own," noted Deputy Commissioner Farrow at a news media event on the campus of California State University-Sacramento.

To enroll in a CMSP course, call 1 (877) RIDE-411 or 1 (877) 743-3411. The cost for students under age 21 is \$150 and for those over 21 it's \$198. Additional information may be obtained at the CMSP Website www.ca-msp.org.